

Message Text

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ACTION INR-07

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FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
TO AMEMBASSY BONN
INFO SECSTATE WASHDC 2806

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 12079

EO 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, PINR
SUBJ: BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH ANAN PANYARACHUN

REF: (A) BANGKOK 12000 (B) 1976 BANGKOK A-125

SUMMARY - BIOGRAPHIC INFORMATION ON ANAN PANYARACHUN - THAI
AMBASSADOR DESIGNATE TO U.K. AS FOLLOWS:

1. RECENT POSITIONS. ANAN PANYARACHUN IS PRESENTLY AMBASSADOR
ATTACHED TO THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS (MFA). HIS LAST
SUBSTANTIVE POSITION WAS UNDER SECRETARY, MFA, FROM 1975 TO
OCT. 21, 1977, WHEN HE WAS SUSPENDED FROM DUTY IN ONE OF THE LAST
ACTS OF THE RULING NATIONAL ADMINISTRATIVE REFORM COUNCIL (NARC).
HE WAS ACCUSED OF LEAKING STATE SECRETS. THE COMMITTEE NAMED TO
INVESTIGATE CLEARED HIM OF THE CHARGES AND ANAN WAS NAMED TO
HIS PRESENT POSITION, ALTHOUGH THE THAI GOVERNMENT MADE NO
FORMAL ANNOUNCEMENT CLEARING HIM OF THE CHARGES.

2. ANAN HAS BEEN FOR SOME TIME A MEMBER OF A SMALL ELITE GROUP
IN THE MFA THAT PLAYED A MAJOR ROLE IN FORMULATING AND CON-
DUCTING FOREIGN POLICY. HE HAS ALSO PUSHED AT EVERY OPPORTUNITY
FOR A MORE ASSERTIVE MFA ROLE VIS-A-VIS THE REST OF THE GOVERN-
MENT, INCLUDING THE MILITARY EVEN WHEN THE MILITARY WERE IN POWER.
WHEN HE WAS UNDER SECRETARY, HE SOUGHT TO EMPHASIZE MFA PRIMACY
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IN FOREIGN POLICY AND ALIENATED THE MILITARY BY HIS ACTIONS.
HE ALSO WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN DEVELOPING THE POLICY OF SEEKING
NORMALIZATION OF RELATIONS WITH THAILAND'S COMMUNIST NEIGHBORS.
THESE FACTORS NO DOUBT CONTRIBUTED TO HIS SUSPENSION WHEN THE
NARC TOOK POWER.

3. BIOGRAPHIC SKETCH. BORN ON AUG. 9, 1932. RECEIVED BA FROM

TRINITY COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY. BEGAN HIS MFA CAREER IN 1955 IN POLITICAL DIVISION OF UN DEPARTMENT. TRANSFERRED TO SEATO DIVISION IN 1957. BECAME SECRETARY TO FOREIGN MINISTER THANAT KHOMAN IN 1959, A POST HE HELD UNTIL 1964. POSTED TO UN IN 1964 AS FIRST SECRETARY. SERVED CONCURRENTLY AS ACTING PERMREP TO UN AND AMBASSADOR TO CANADA FROM 1967 TO 1972. BECAME AMBASSADOR TO U.S. AND PERMREP TO UN IN 1972 AND UNDER SECRETARY IN 1975.

4. SUAVE AND SOPHISTICATED, ANAN IS AN EFFECTIVE, ARTICULATE SPEAKER WITH A REPUTATION FOR CANDOR AND LOGIC. HE IS IMPATIENT WITH CEREMONY AND SMALL TALK BUT IS DEFINITELY RANK-CONSCIOUS AND SENSITIVE ABOUT THE DIGNITY OF HIS POSITION. HE SPEAKS EXCELLENT ENGLISH AND SOME FRENCH. BOTH ANAN AND HIS ATTRACTIVE WIFE, M.R. SOTSI, WHO ALSO SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH, COME FROM SOCIALLY PROMINENT THAI FAMILIES. THE COUPLE HAS TWO TEENAGE DAUGHTERS, ONE OF WHOM IS PRESENTLY IN SCHOOL IN THE U.S.

5. THE EMBASSY IS POUCHING TO EMBASSY BONN A BIOGRAPHIC PROFILE (REF B) WHICH CONTAINS A MORE EXTENDED ANALYSIS OF ANAN'S VIEWS ON FOREIGN POLICY AND PERSONAL FACTORS WHICH INFLUENCE THOSE VIEWS.
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